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THE RATIFICATION MEETING.

Commencing today there will be a jolly good time for a few fellows in Chicago! Several hundred men will meet there. They will be called to order, and they will be told that they are there to pick out a man to run for the office of president of this country of ours. Then one man will stand to his feet and make a speech. He will launch before those assembled the name of Theodore Roosevelt. The other men will cheer as though the name were a good one and they never happened to think of it before. Another man will also suggest the name of Roosevelt. Very seriously they will ballot and Roosevelt will be selected to carry the banner of the republican party. A committee will be selected to tell Mr. Roosevelt of the honor conferred upon him. He will draw himself up and remark: "This is so sudden." Then he will make a speech and go in the White House and sit before the fire and wonder how those men away back there in Chicago happened to think of him. He will hang his trousers that night on the peg made immortal by the pantaloons of Grant and Lincoln and McKinley. His protests against race suicide will romp through the White House grounds and become infatuated with the view, and he will go out and watch them and then he will return to the house and go into the kitchen where Mrs. Roosevelt is making the season's supply of sauer kraut and tell her that he likes the place and thinks he will lease it for another four years. And Mrs. Roosevelt will put on her old black silk and go down town and buy a new bonnet on the strength of it, and Alice will get a new calico apron and the glorious democracy of our country will be preserved!

And in a few more days another crown of men will meet in St. Louis. They will also mention names, but the names are not known at present. They will also appoint a committee and some other man will remark that it is so sudden, and he will mean it. And then the man will also think of leasing that old farm occupied by Roosevelt and he may raise R's ante and then there will be the deuce to pay—and there will be plenty of good, strong men to pay it. This is the way the situation looks to the rural voter—the real strength of the country. There will be a ratification meeting in Chicago and there will be a good, hard scrap in St. Louis, and the ruralite will look on and smile and in November will visit the voting booth and do his durndest—but in which direction no man knows.

FILLING THE PORTFOLIOS.

The appointment of Attorney General Knox as United States senator to succeed the late Matthew Stanley Quay of Pennsylvania, and the retirement of Secretary Cortelyou of the new department of commerce and labor, in order to accept the chairmanship of the national republican committee, will create two vacancies in the cabinet of President Roosevelt. The only remaining members of President McKinley's cabinet at the time of his death in 1901 are Secretary of State Hay, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, Secretaries Shaw, Taft and Moody and Postmaster General Payne are appointees of President Roosevelt. It is reported that the attorney generalship will be filled by Secretary Moody, which will leave a vacancy in the navy portfolio. The name of Congressman Victor H. Metcalf is connected with the appointment of a successor to Secretary Cortelyou. Mr. Metcalf has represented the Third district of California in the house of representatives since March 4, 1899. He resides at Oakland, and is a lawyer by profession. He is a native of New York state, born at Utica in 1853, being now 50 years of age. He attended Yale college for two years and graduated from the Yale law school in 1876. He removed to California about 25 years ago. Mr. Metcalf is on the ways and means committee of the house and is the most influential member of the California delegation next to Senator Perkins. He is a close personal friend of Secretary Moody. There is little doubt that Mr. Metcalf has been offered a place in the cabinet.

The only Californian who ever held a place in the cabinet was Joseph McKenna, now an associate justice of the supreme court, who was attorney general for a few months at the beginning of President McKinley's administration. Mayor George H. Williams

of Portland, Ore., held the same portfolio for nearly four years in President Grant's cabinet during his second term. These are the only cabinet officers that have ever been chosen from the Pacific coast, and only two more have been selected from states west of the Missouri river, Henry M. Teller of Colorado, who was secretary of the interior during President Arthur's administration, and J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska, who was secretary of agriculture during President Cleveland's second term. President Roosevelt is exceedingly popular in the west, and the selection of a cabinet officer from the Pacific coast would be a just recognition of this section.

RUSSIA SCORES AGAIN.

The Russian Vladivostok fleet has scored again, destroying at least two more Japanese transports. It is the only portion of the Russian navy which has been handled with skill and intelligence since the outbreak of the war, and it has been under the severest possible handicap.

There is not a vessel in the fleet which is fit to take its place in the line of battle. All are armored cruisers, which could not resist the impact of shells from the broadside guns of any battleship in the Japanese navy. But, so far, the Vladivostok fleet has not been forced to encounter any heavy fighting ships.

The most serious disadvantage under which it has been is that it has but one possible base. Once out of Vladivostok, in a dash at the Japanese transport service there is no refuge for the fleet, save to return to the same place. There is no other port open to it at which it could secure coal or supplies. If intercepted, after leaving port, it must fight to the death. Yet, with these disadvantages, the fleet from Vladivostok has made three dashes down into Japanese waters, each time has done considerable injury to the Japanese transport service, and has escaped without a battle with a Japanese fleet of any force. It is merely a question of time when it will meet disaster, but certainly this particular Russian fleet has been handled with skill and dash, in striking contrast with the operations of the Port Arthur fleet, infinitely more formidable both in offensive and defensive power, but which has been entrapped and useless since the outbreak of the war.

Everyone will agree with Dr. Fulton that streets should be improved according to specifications. The general desire on the part of property owners to make substantial improvements should be encouraged, and poorly constructed streets will not have this tendency. Apart from this feature of the situation, people are entitled to what they pay for.

Some people are finding fault with the president's Cuban letter assuring our neighbors on the south that they will be treated well so long as they behave well. But would it have been politic to assure them that they are such dear pets that they will be treated well no matter how they behave?

Speaking generally, Mr. Fairbanks is of opinion that a statesman from Indiana who will be presidential size in 1908 would probably discourage a vice presidential boom this year if approached on the subject.

Of course the bride was mobbed and the police had to be called upon, but the omission of one thing at the latest Goebel wedding shows lack of rehearsal. Nobody tried to crawl into the church through a coal hole.

Editor Bok does not approve of the women having pockets in their stockings. He is probably afraid the women will fall into the mail habit of standing around on the corners with their hands in their pockets.

The real advantage of the proposed nomination of E. M. Shepard for president is that the convention need adopt no other platform than: "Resolved, That there are two sides to every question."

Commissioner McAdoo carefully avoids the simple expedient of going out and asking the first man he meets where he can get a couple of dollars down on a good thing.

The dairymen want to keep their milk bottles from being stolen, and they have formed an association to prevent it. Just at the beginning of the preserving season, too.

Hundred dollar bills of a counterfeit nature are in circulation on the coast. Persons with bills of this denomination should be carefully scrutinized.

Never a democratic convention but some democrat gets turned down, thrown out or sternly repudiated.

The man who wants the Illinois delegates to St. Louis will evidently have to speak up.

High Ball won the American derby. Where were those Illinois prohibitionists?

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

Young ladies who are trying to catch a boat should not stop too long to say good-bye to lady friends lest they miss the boat and be obliged to flag a train.

In a mining camp of Colorado there is a little cabin!

In it sits a lonely woman with children at her knee!

Tears trickle down her cheeks!

It is a broken home!

The husband and father is far away!

Her children cry for bread—they are hungry!

But her hunger is the hunger of the heart!

Why—?

Because the governor, who took an oath to protect the welfare of his subjects, has driven her husband from his home for no fault of his!

And this is in Colorado!

And Colorado is in the United States of America!

Which is the land of the free!

We know this to be true!

Because we have seen it in the Declaration of Independence.

Which is the foundation of American principles!

And is always observed (7).

McCULLY.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

List of letters remaining unclaimed for thirty days at Astoria postoffice, June 20, 1904:

Albers, Fred Mr.
Anderson, Fred
Astoria Fishing Co.
Audley, Mildred Miss
Barr, C. H. Mr.
Beach, A. Y.
Bentley, A. R.
Bowers, Ben
Candy, E.
Carpenter, Wm. Mr.
Casper, E. M. Mr.
Dodge, Eugene Mr.
Gilmartin, M.
Greiner, Wm.
Hamilton, E. M. Mr.
Johnson, Elmer
Johnson, Daniel
Joplin, Rudolph Mr.
Lee, A. C. Mr.
Limes, Geo.
Long, G. E. & Co.
Lundquist, Oscar Mr.
McFarland, G. W. Mr.
Nelson, Harry
Reed, Alex
Nordby, Martin
Noreberg, Fred
Olson, Magdalene
Otto, E. W. Esq.
Owens, Mollie Mrs.
Palmer, H. L.
Pope, J. C.
Parks, Levi Mr.
Parks, Ella Mrs.
Pischel, Louis
Pogue, G. A. Mrs.
Postel, Louis Mr.
Potter, Harry
Ray, H. R. Mr. (2)
Rich, G. O.
Sutner, Albert G.
Sexton, Ray Mr. (2)
Smith, Allen How. Co.
Smith, P. S.
Sorensen, Hans N.
Spencer, Chas.
Strange, E. L. Mr.
Von Nyl, J.
Watson, J. W. Mr.
Western Yeast Co.
Williamson, Louis M.
Wood, J. M. Mr.
Young, Agnes Miss

Foreign Letters.

Fox, Fred T. Esq.
Larson, John Mr.
Larson, Richard Mr. (2)

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—Thos. Gillard, Esq., Ill.



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